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Feds Fund New DA

The prosecutor will work in Albina/Killingsworth corridor

Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

Multnomah County District Attorney's Office has landed a \$600,000 grant from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance, part of the Department of Justice.

The three-year grant includes \$45,000 a year to support Eleven:45, the church-led youth violence prevention initiative. It also will fund a Deputy District Attorney who will work in the Albina and Killingsworth corridor to work with the street crimes unit.

Deputy District Attorney Jim Hayden announced the grant at the Gang Violence Task Force meeting on Friday. Hayden, who is based at the Northeast police precinct, says the grant will help Eleven:45, reach out to gang-affected youth and families.

"It is exciting, because we have some momentum going here and the more that we can do now, the better," said Hayden.

Eleven:45 and the District Attorney's office are working together on an initiative that connects gang-affected youth with pastors. As a condition of probation, first-time offenders who have committed minor offenses will be asked to contact a mentor through the Eleven:45 program.

The initiative started with pastors taking youth to lunch, to offer them support and help connect them to resources in the community, including mentoring. The grant also will help with administrative costs and organizing volunteers.

The Office of Youth Violence Prevention has allocated a separate grant of \$4,500 to the volunteer group Connected, said Tom Peavey, policy manager for the office. The funds are intended to help Connected continue its work. Connected puts a caring adult presence into parks and streets where violence has been a problem. Since it was started by former youth violence prevention director John Canda, Connected has been walking in Holladay Park every Friday at

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UNITY



PHOTO COURTESY KYMBERLY JEKA

Inspired by the City Repair project, artist Kymberly Jeka wanted to create a community mural on her street, at the intersection of North Haight and Emerson. After months of bringing the idea around the city for approval, neighbors got together last weekend and painted the striking geometric design of interlocking triangles. "The design represents Unity and Community," Jeka says. "It represents diverse neighbors coming together and working as one."

Black GLBT Report: First of Its Kind

Oct. 11 forum looks at disparities in income, housing, violence

Submitted by the Urban League of Portland

A new report provides the first comprehensive glimpse into the lives and concerns of black Oregonians who are also lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ).

Until now, almost no data about this population existed. The report – which relies on a survey of 200 people, two community focus groups, plus information from other studies –

shows that discrimination on the basis of gender and sexual identity, compounded by racial inequity, creates far greater social and economic disparities for black LGBTQ people.

The Parent's and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Portland Black Chapter teamed up with the Urban League of Portland to produce the study.

"This is a groundbreaking document that shows black gay and transgender folks are among the most vulnerable people in our society," said Khalil

Edwards, the coordinator for Portland PFLAG's black chapter. "The issues we face must be addressed, and this report will help us address them."

Some of the highlights of the report:

Black LGBTQ Oregonians have disproportionately high rates for poverty and unemployment: 43.7 percent have an annual income of \$20,000 or less, and 18 percent are unemployed. One third reported discrimination in being hired or on the job. These rates are high-

er than those among white people of any orientation and straight people of color.

Black LGBTQ people of color fare worse in health when compared to heterosexuals and white LGBT people, with almost 11 percent of black LGBTQ Oregonians reporting being diagnosed with HIV.

Black LGBTQ Oregonians often face homophobia, with 70 percent of respondents reporting it as a problem within the black community.

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Maya Angelou Visits Portland Oct. 30

The poet author and national treasure speaks to The Skanner News

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

Dr. Maya Angelou is scheduled to speak in Portland, Oct. 30, at the Arlene Schnitzer Hall. Born in St. Louis, Mo., in 1928, she has traveled widely and earned renown as an author, poet, dancer, actor, producer and civil rights activist. She has counted among her friends

many of the most influential people of the 20th Century and beyond, including with Malcolm X, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and James Baldwin. It was Baldwin who encouraged her to write her autobiography. The first volume, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," was published in 1970 to enormous acclaim. That work, and her 30 subsequent biographies, poetry and novels, have inspired readers the world over.

Dr. Angelou's awards and honors include three Grammys, a Pulitzer, 30 honorary degrees – including one from Portland State University—the Presidential Medal of Arts in 2000 and the Lincoln Medal in 2008. At the request of President Bill Clinton she composed and recited a poem for his 1993 inauguration, "On the Pulse of The Morn-

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